

The Banner.

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

FRANK HARPER, Editor.

SEMI-WEEKLY

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SHOOK HANDS WITH KING

Of Italy Did Senator Cunningham Of Knox Co.

On His Visit With Agricultural Commission

A Very Interesting Letter Written By Mr. Cunningham

Of His Trip Through Various Countries Of Europe

Most Favorably Impressed With Roman Agriculture

Fuma, Hungary, May 20, 1913.
My Dear editor and folks at home:
We are on the train bound to Budapest and as it is the first opportunity I have had since landing to do any writing I will give you some notes from my diary as composed from day to day.

We anchored in the Bay of Gibraltar for three hours on May 7th. We spent the time seeing the Fortress. We were driven direct to the Fort. We were then conducted through a series of galleries cut through solid rock up to about one third of the distance to the top of the huge Rock which is 1475 feet high. There are always 25 or 30 feet of solid rock outside of these galleries. There are frequent port holes cut through to the outside. Through these we got some fine views of the town and of Spain. The fortress really begins where we left off. Those in charge of the Garrison are courteous but of course they did not propose to show us the inside works. Returning to the garrison we were driven to the extreme south of the Rock to the Governor's Palace. A most beautiful garden is maintained here. It faces the Public square and slopes upward meeting the abrupt rise of the rock. All the flowers were in full bloom, making a grand sight. There are many gardens and parks in Gibraltar that help to beautify the place. All the houses and streets are well kept. A noteworthy place was the public market. It looked like the horticulture department of a big fair. Everything of the vegetable and fruit line as well as meats were on exhibition. All of the buildings were made of cement and were grouped in a square. The Moors, Spaniards and English all there.

The British have spent hundreds of millions in building this town and the fortifications. That is a lot of money to put in a space containing about two square miles of rock, but a person must see it to realize the vast importance of the fort. It is practically impregnable. They can sweep the land or sea as far as the most powerful guns can shoot. Their elevation gives them additional advantage both for elevation and range.

As has been characteristic of the towns we have seen, the streets are narrow, the houses and shops are built out to the curbing. The principle streets are not over 20 feet wide.

One would wonder how material for buildings and the heavy guns were gotten to the top of the rock. It has an elevation of 60 to 70 per cent on the Bay side and 80 to 90 per cent on the Mediterranean side. Roads are cut out of the solid rock running along the side then turning and running back a little higher up and so on until the top is reached. Large guns are mounted along the very top of the rock.

We got under way again about 4:30 o'clock, rounding the Rock and en-

tering the Mediterranean. This gave us an opportunity to see it from all sides, also our first opportunity since leaving home of seeing the sun set behind the hills. It was a beautiful setting, the most homelike we have seen.

We landed in Genova about 9 o'clock, May 10th. Genova has a very fine harbor and an immense amount of shipping. We spent the day sight seeing, leaving for Rome at 9 p. m. Genova is a very old city yet considering the disadvantage of being situated on the side of immense hills of solid rock is a very modern city. The care for cleanliness, good streets, parks and comfort stations is worthy of mention. Nearly all the people live in six-story apartment houses.

Their taste for art is very noticeable. The shops are rather small when compared with those at home. The old wall built centuries ago to protect the city is still standing except down in the city they are tearing it down in places. Some of the old gates are standing, but most of them have been torn down to accommodate the city's growth. One gate at the east end of the city is still standing and is near the house in which Christopher Columbus was raised. This house is very old and the city proposes to tear it down unless the Americans buy it.

It being dark when we started for Rome we did not see the outlying country until we awakened at 5 o'clock in the morning. The fields were green with luxuriant growth in the fields. The wheat and rye is now out in head and in many places they were cutting the alfalfa. The many orchards were cultivated and wheat and rye growing between the trees. The roads every where were remarkably good. They are built mostly of macadam.

We arrived in Rome at 8 o'clock and were met and welcomed by the President of Agricultural Institute and other city officials. We went directly to the Hotel de Russie where we had breakfast. Being free for a time several seized the opportunity to see some of the historic places of Rome. In the afternoon we were received by the King and Queen of Italy in the Agricultural Institute Building. They were addressed by the representatives of many nations but none of them were more ably given than that of Congressman Moss of Brazil, Indiana. Mr. Moss is a hard headed, live farmer and he delivered his address without notes or a break, but not so with the others for they all read their remarks. Dr. Butterfield, President of the Massachusetts Agricultural college presented the King with an engrossed scroll of resolutions adopted by the American Commission before leaving New York. The King and Queen are very democratic. They shook hands with all of us. The King is very deeply interested in Agriculture. He made the International Institute of Agriculture possible. He built a magnificent building and endowed it for the purpose of making a permanent Institute of Agriculture composed of all the nations of the world. Monday we held a session with the Institute delegates who individually expressed the welcome we will receive from the countries we will visit. Our morning closed with the presenting of a beautiful loving cup to Mr. Leuben who got the King interested in the founding of the Agricultural Institute. In the afternoon we were received by the Lord Mayor in the Capitol Building. The party was shown the historic collections and later what is said to be the finest palace in Europe. All manner of fine art and tapestries over 100 years old were to be seen in this building. It is very seldom that any one outside of Royalty is shown this Palace. The people are trying to show us the best hospitality they have. In the evening we were served a magnificent banquet at the Hotel Excelsior which is one of the finest hotels in Europe.

On Tuesday our real work began. We had sessions all day and also Wednesday. We were given outlines of the work we will find in the different sections of Italy we will visit. For instance, we will get co-operative dairy schemes at Bologna, co-operative farming at Padua, co-operative banking at Florence and Milan. We have so little time to see the great works of art and sculpture that I will not attempt to tell about them because I would have to read up on them to tell them accurately. We left Rome for Florence early in the evening arriving in Florence at midnight. We were met by the mayor and city officials and welcomed to the city. We had several hours of daylight out of Rome. The country is magnificent, the fields and hills for miles out are fully cultivated in gardens and fruits. The people live in colonies of four or five families. The Government has, within the past few years been building houses and barns for which the people pay small rent, on the great Campagna lands which were taken from the Church about sixty years ago. The government is dividing these lands into small tracts

and selling them to the people on long time payments without taxes. In its endeavor to build a great agriculture. Our sessions in Florence resulted in some very useful information, one point especially marked is the method of extending what are called open accounts to the farmers as well as to the business men. As in Rome we did not have time to see the beautiful works of art and culture that are here. We had two hours in the most wonderful art gallery in the world so you can imagine the impressions we would get from such a hurried study. Several of us however, did get six or eight miles out in the country and observe the people in action. One place visited has been farmed by the same family for over 300 years, and they have no desire to go to America. The people that we come in contact with are a very different class from most of those Italians we have with us at home. Those come mostly from southern Italy and are in poorer circumstances.

The farms visited are quite up to date. The feed is cut by machines run by electricity and in this way the water is pumped. Wheat averages 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Large crops of vegetables are grown. Labor is cheap thus good profits result. We were entertained at the city hall by the Mayor at 6 p. m. This hall was built in the 16th century and is in excellent condition. A very impressive observation all over Italy is the permanent character of their buildings, roads and walls. When once done they are done for ages. We have not seen a frame building or a single place where there has been a fire. We left Florence at 6:30 a. m. Friday, for the different parts of Italy to be visited by the three different groups which will again meet in Venice Monday. The district out of Florence is very beautiful and highly cultivated. Every particle of land is utilized and every bit of manure saved. They sweep the pikes twice a week and apply the manure the uniform neatness of the farms, thus collected. We are impressed by As we climbed higher and higher on the Alps we noted more attention given to fruit culture, until the numerous tunnels cut out further observation. Arriving at Bologna at 10 o'clock we were again met by the city officials who took us directly to the Savings and Co-operative Banks and gave us a full and detailed account of their workings. We were then entertained at lunch and at dinner in the evening. In the afternoon we were taken in automobiles for a visit covering three large co-operative farms, in all a ride of forty miles. One farm of 4,500 acres was as fine a farm as could be seen anywhere. Hundreds of acres of wheat looked good enough to yield forty bushels to the acre. They were growing wheat, oats, hemp, alfalfa, rice and some corn besides grapes. Large dairy interests are maintained. Oxen are used quite extensively as is the custom throughout most of the farming districts of Italy. At one barn 44 head were lined up for us and not one of them weighed less than 1500 pounds, and from that up to 2200 pounds each. The cows averaged about 25 to 27 pounds of milk daily. They will follow a four-year system of rotating crops. They plow 20 to 24 inches deep once in this rotation. Agriculture has made more improvements in the last 20 years since Alfalfa was introduced than in two centuries before. Bologna is the home of the original Bologna sausage but they say now that the English pig has spoiled it. It is a great hemp district and the seat of the oldest university in the world. At one time they had 16,000 students here.

Sunday we visited Reggio, the great center of co-operation of Italy. Here they have a co-operative railroad, co-operative dairies, co-operative wine cellars, co-operative banks, co-operative stores and municipal owned institutions. After making a survey of these institutions we left on a late train for Venice where the other parties joined us during the night.

We have learned a new way to spell hospitality, i. e. "Italy." Briefly summed up the points we visited represent the following:

Genoa, the center of Italian commerce.

Rome, history and ecclesiastic power.

Florence, art and art treasures.

Reggio and Milan, co-operation.

The coat of arms of Reggio means co-operation.

The cooperative farms were particularly noted for their large cattle and large families. At one of them there are 350 families and the manager said they expected and got an annual crop of 150 babies. They encourage large families because so many have to serve in the army and others emigrate.

We spent the morning Monday in seeing Venice and left at 2 p. m. by boat for Trieste where we landed at 6 o'clock. It rained all afternoon as it has done all day today. The Cas-

The Early Spring Clearance Sale of Carpets, Curtains and Rugs

is a success in every way. Carpets, Curtains, Rugs, Matting, Linoleums—in fact all lines on the Carpet Floor are selling at reductions that mean big savings to you. This is a busy department these days, stocks are moving rapidly. You can shop with more satisfaction if you come early in the day.

Sale of Vacuum Cleaners

These hand suction cleaners have been slightly used as samples. They are perfect in every way and are guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

THE ROYAL—A \$4.75 value, Clearance Sale Price	\$3.25
AERO VAC—A sweeper type \$6.50 value, Clearance Sale Price	\$4.25
DIAMOND—Four bellows sweeper type; \$10 value, Clearance Sale Price	\$7.50
THE FEENEY double suction type, \$17.50 value, Clearance Sale Price	\$11.95

ROOM SIZE RUGS

Velvet Rugs, size 9x12, heavy pile and closely woven in floral and Oriental designs. Good long wearing rugs and values up to \$22.50; clearance sale price \$15.50

Velvet Rugs. Room size, large assortment of pleasing patterns; values up to \$15.50; clearance sale price \$10.85

Axminster—Size 9x12 one lot of rugs in floral and Persian patterns, values up to \$21.50; clearance sale price \$16.35

Brussels Rugs—Size 9x12, good firm rugs of floral and Oriental designs; \$15 values; clearance sale price \$11.85

Fibre Rugs—Heavy wood and fibre rugs. Guaranteed fast colors; room size, \$9 values; clearance sale price \$7.50

CARPETS

Rag Carpet—Colored rag carpet that is heavy and evenly woven, worth, per yard 50c; clearance sale price, per yard 35c

Velvet Carpets—Heavy high pile in a good carpet for every day wear; hall, stair and border to match; made, laid and lined free; clearance sale price, per yard 90c

SMALL RUGS

One lot of heavy velvet rugs, size 27 in. x 54 in., \$1.50 and \$1.75 values; clearance sale price \$1.39

JAP MATTING

Good heavy quality plain matting with woven carpet patterns; specially priced, per yard 30c

CURTAINS

White Serim Curtains, per pair 24c

White Nottingham Lace Curtains, per pair 39c

One, two and three pair lots in white and ecru One-fourth to one-half off.

Nottingham curtains in ecru and white, values up to \$1.75; clearance sale price \$1.15

Heavy thread Cable Net Curtains in Cluny designs; \$2.00 values; clearance sale price \$1.59

Hemstitched Etamine and Serim Curtains with lace edge and insertion; values up to \$3.00; clearance sale price, pair \$2.00

Quaker quality in white, cream and ecru; good patterns in a long wearing curtain; values up to \$4.50; clearance sale price, per pair \$3.00

CURTAIN MATERIALS

Heavy thread Nofade Washable Serims; all wanted colors and designs; worth 25c per yard; clearance sale price, yard 19c

Six designs in heavy quality etamine, cream and ecru, per yard 25c

Madras—Heavy Scotch madras 50c value; clearance sale price, per yard 35c

Marquisette—50c values in ecru only; clearance sale price, per yard 35c

Aurora Cloth—Good patterns and guaranteed sun fast; clearance sale price, per yard 45c

The A. A. Douds Dry Goods Co.

THE STORE OF QUALITY

MONTHLY

Meeting Of The Woman's Christian Association

The regular monthly meeting of the W. C. A. was held Wednesday afternoon.

The matron reported the following donations to the home for the aged during the month:

Methodist church committee—6 carnations.

Mrs. John Merrin—rhubarb, flowers.

Primary Dept. First Baptist church—flowers.

Mrs. Browning—tea pot, 1 pt. cream, 5 qts. fruit.

L. S. Keene—magazines.

Mrs. Mann—rhubarb.

Quid Episcopal church—1 can quince butter and cake.

A friend—1 qt. peach butter.

Mrs. Chas. Green—1 1/2 doz. eggs.

A friend—1 gallon ice cream.

Mrs. Will R. Wing—2 loaves bread, 1 pan rolls.

Masonic Order—meat, gravy, potatoes, bread, butter, peas and pickles.

Mary Mardis—flowers.

Annette Kinney—flowers.

Jean Stevens—flowers.

Mrs. Rush—4 lbs. butter.

Mrs. Stauffer—mustard lettuce plants.

SCHOOL ENUMERATIONS

Mr. William A. Silcott has completed the school enumeration of that section of the city west of Main street, the Second and Fourth Wards.

Figures follow: Second ward: Males 202, females 214. Fourth ward: Males 297, females 252.

Calantha Officers
Shining Light Court of Calantha No. 43, has elected the following officers:

W. C.—Frances White.
W. Ipx.—Bessie White.
W. Iptr.—Bessie Newsom.
W. Iptr.—Ross Turner.
W. O.—Mallinda Payne.
S. D.—Mary Ralls.
J. D.—Jennie May.
R. of D.—Bertha Payne.
Reg. of A.—Ellis Newsom.
Reg. of D.—Elizabeth Copeland.
W. Con.—Anna Turner.
A. Con.—Viola Booker.
W. Escort—Leona Hamilton.
W. Herald—Bessie Simmons.
W. Protector—Julia Drake.
Trustee, 18 months—Lon White.

It is not safe to tell any American League pitcher that Ty Cobb's eyesight is on the blink, when the batting averages show that Ty is hitting for .500 or better.